THE CLARION CALL

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

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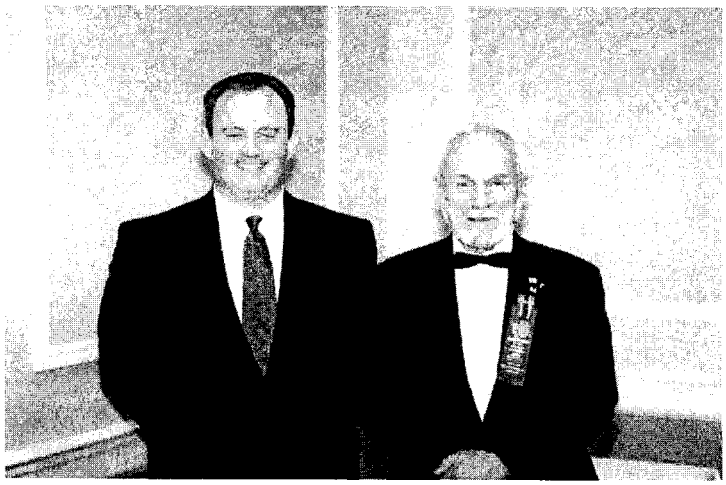

Newly-elected Dept. Commander Robert H. Knight, (right) with author and guest speaker Dr. Thomas Desjardin at the 120th Annual Department Encampment

120th Annual Department of Massachusetts Encampment Held In Andover, MA

Andover, MA - The Department of Massachusetts held its 120th Annual Encampment on April 27, 2002, at the Ramada Inn Rolling Green in Andover, Massachusetts.

An unusual one-day session was held and all necessary workings for a successful business meeting were conducted in keeping with mandated programs.

Unfortunately, some of the Department's closest advisors and candidates interested in Department office were unable to attend due to illness, personal family matters and prior commitments.

Commander Ryerson noted that PCC Peter Rotando was representing the Department of Massachusetts at the Department of Vermont's Annual Encampment, which was being held on the same day as the Department of Massachusetts', and therefore was unable to attend.

Despite their absence, the sessions were conducted under the expertise of Commander William Ryerson and, under his influence, the Department's business was completed as scheduled.

All camps were represented by their delegates with the exception of three: Camp 61, Camp 132 and Camp 26. The Department sincerely hopes that the representatives from these camps will make every effort to attend next year's Department Encampment.

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2002-03 Department Leadership: Mix of Old and New Faces

Andover, MA - Along with experienced veterans, many first time Department Officers will be leading the Department in the coming year.

Led by veteran Department officers Commander Robert H. Knight and SVC John W. Bates III, Delegates to the 120th Department Encampment elected a new JVC, Kevin P. Tucker. Among those with a long history of service to the department were PDC William T. Ryerson, who was elected Dept. Secretary, and PDC Edward W. Parks, who was reelected as Dept. Treasurer.

There was spirited balloting for one Department office in particular, that of Department Council. There were six candidates in all, including three who submitted letters of consideration because they were unable to attend.

Returning as Council Member is A. Dean Sargent, who is joined by two new Department Council Members, Paul Jancewicz and Daniel Burns.

There were also a few innovations to note: The office of Department Secretary Treasurer was divided back into two separate offices: Department Secretary and Department Treasurer. Also, a team of two Co-Editors of the Clarion Call, the Department of Massachusetts' Official newsletter, were appointed by Commander Robert H. Knight.

Encampment Banquet A Truly "New England" Event

Music By 2nd New Hampshire Serenade Band and Lecture On The 20th Maine's Joshua Chamberlain

Master of Ceremonies Col. Frank Tucker of the 11th Mass. Infantry reads greetings from Commander Al Peterson of Camp 12, in Las Vegas, Nevada to newly-elected Commander Robert H. Knight at the 120th Department Encampment Banquet.
Seated left to right are: Mrs. Beverly Ryerson, Outgoing Dept. Commander William T. Ryerson, Col. Frank Tucker, Dept. Commander Robert H. Knight, Rev. Gage Hotaling, and Mrs. Adele Hotaling

Andover, MA - Following the day's business sessions, the annual Encampment Banquet was held, beginning with a wonderful presentation of Civil War era music by the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment Serenade Band.

Col. Frank Tucker of the 11th Mass. Infantry was the Master of ceremonies for the evening festivities, which included a riveting lecture by the Banquet's keynote speaker, Dr. Thomas Desjardin, author of "Stand Firm Ye Boys from Maine: The 20th Maine of the Gettysburg Campaign" and "Joshua L. Chamberlain".

Dr. Desjardin spoke about Joshua Chamberlain's, (of the 20th Maine Infantry) life after the Battle of Little Round Top, from his wounding at the battle of Petersburg all the way through to his death in 1914. The audience was held spellbound by Dr. Desjardin's presentation of some of the amazing highlights of Chamberlain's life.

After the Banquet ceremonies were concluded, Dr. Desjardin conducted a book signing for all interested members. Credit should be given to Department SVC John W. Bates III, for arranging Dr. Desjardin's attendance. S. V.C. Bates also presented Dr. Desjardin with a token of appreciation on behalf of the Department.

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Organizer
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2002 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT TO BE HELD AUGUST 8-10th IN SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS

The members of the Illinois Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Auxiliary to the SUVCW and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic cordially invite you to the 2002 National Encampment of our organizations to be held in Springfield, Illinois on August 8-10, 2002. This will be the 6th National Encampment in Illinois, and the 4th hosted in Springfield.

The 2002 National Encampment will be based at the Renaissance Springfield Hotel. Room rates are $79 for single - quadruple occupancy. Parking is extra. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel directly at 217-544-8800. Please specify that you are with the Sons of Union Veterans when making reservations.

LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS IN UPCOMING EDITIONS OF **THE BANNER**

Encampment Update

- A change to the Dept. By-Laws, Article IX, Section I, "Vacancies", was approved, adopting the wording recommended by National Counselor Jim Pahl.
- The revised budget for fiscal year 2002-2003 submitted by the Department Council was adopted as read.
- A resolution proposed by Camp 162, amending the Rituals and Ceremonies booklet to include a ritual whereby members stand and announce their Civil War ancestor at Camp meetings, failed to pass. Although the membership was greatly in favor of including the ritual in Camp meetings, it was felt that this ritual should be added as an amendment to the individual Camps' bylaws, if desired by their members.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The Most Outstanding Event of the Year Is Coming Up!

On Sunday, May 26th, 2002, at 1:00 PM, the Department will join with hundreds of Veterans from across the region, to conduct services on Cape Cod, at the Veterans Administration National Cemetery, in Bourne, Mass., honoring the only Union Veteran buried in the vast cemetery of some 27,000 Veterans' graves.

The Department has once again been given the honor of presenting Gen. Logan's Order No. 11, which, in essence, created Memorial Day.

The Commander calls upon every member of the Department able to do so, to be present at this great event.

Furthermore, Commander Knight requests that Camps send their Color Guard or any uniformed personnel as well as Camp Colors to the observance.

New England Regional Association Meeting

The next NERA meeting will be held on Sunday, July 21st, 2002, at the Weirs, in Laconia, NH.

Any member in good standing of the SUVCW in New England is entitled to attend.

PDC William T. Ryerson, SR. will preside at the meeting, as Commander Richard Woodbury will be assisting in the preparation of the luncheon.

Regional Nominations, Elections and Installation of Officers will be a prominent part of the day's business.

The Department of Massachusetts is very active in NERA activities:

- PDC Edward W. Parks is the Regional Secretary.

- Douglass Knight from Camp 162 is the Publicity Director.

- PDC William T. Ryerson is the Regional SVC and will be a candidate for Regional Commander.

There will be a joint meeting of the Association and the Auxiliary in the afternoon.

Our hosts, the Department of New Hampshire, will be providing a luncheon at the midday break. The cost of a luncheon ticket has yet to be determined.

From the Commander:

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 1 Series 2002-2003

Having been duly elected Commander of the Department of Massachusetts, under the Constitution and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I hereby assume Command.

The following offices have been duly **elected** as follows:
Commander.....Robert H. Knight
Senior Vice Commander.....John W. Bates III
Jr. Vice Commander.....Kevin P. Tucker
Treasurer.....Edward W. Parks
Secretary.....William Ryerson
Council Member.....Paul Jancewicz
Council Member.....Daniel Burns
Council Member.....A. Dean Sargent
Delegates to National Encampment:
.....A Dean Sargent
.....John W. Bates III
.....Kevin P. Tucker
.....Daniel Burns

The following Brothers are hereby **appointed** to office as follows:
Assistant Secretary.....Edward W. Parks
Assistant Treasurer.....William T. Ryerson, Sr.
Chaplain.....Martin Kennedy
Chief of Staff.....Robert F. Anderson
Civil War Graves Chair.....Douglas E. Jenkins
Civil War Memorials Officer.....A. Dean Sargent
Counselor.....Peter Rotando
Historian.....A. Dean Sargent
Newsletter Editors.....Kevin P. Tucker
.....John W. Bates III
Organizer.....Kevin P. Tucker
Patriotic Instructor.....Roy L. Henry, Jr.
Press Correspondent.....William T. Ryerson, Jr.
Signals Officer.....Kevin P. Tucker
Color Bearer.....Richard Eccleston, Sr.

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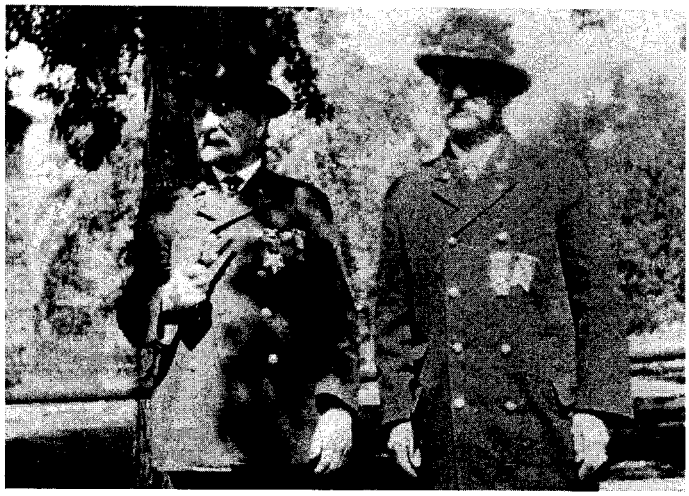
I hereby authorize the Department SVC to call a meeting of this Department, at his pleasure during my absence from the State. Department Meetings will be otherwise at the pleasure of the Commander.

By the order of
Robert H. Knight
Commander, Department of Massachusetts

Attest:
William T. Ryerson
Secretary, Department of Massachusetts



John Jones Wright (left) and an unidentified comrade at Gettysburg. Photograph is believed to have been taken in July of 1893.

My Civil War Ancestor

By John W. Bates

Author's Note: As a member of the Dept. of Massachusetts, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I am honored to submit a short history of the life and military career of my great, great, great, grandfather, John Jones Wright, my "Civil War Ancestor", to The Clarion Call.

John Jones Wright was born in 1831 in or around the town of Saratoga Springs, New York. I have not learned much about his life before the Civil War. I do know, however, that he married my great, great, great, grandmother, Miss Julia Ellen Goodwin on August 31st, 1854. They had two children before the war, and then at the age of 29, John enlisted in Co. H., 22 Regt., NY. Infantry on May 6th, 1861. He and his company were mustered in June 6th, 1861.

The 22nd was attached to the first army corps of Keys Brigade of the Army of the Potomac until April, 1862. John was in several skirmishes and battles, most notably the Second Battle of Bull Run in August of the same year, where he was taken prisoner. He was a P.O.W. until exchanged in November, 1862. It was then when he rejoined the 22nd at Falmouth, Virginia. He and his regiment were also involved in the Battle of Fredricksburg, Virginia in December, 1862. His last documented participation in the war was in the Battle of Chancellorsville, in April and May , 1863.

The 22nd New York was mustered out of service on June 19th, 1863 because it had fulfilled its two year duty to the Union in the war. Family lore then has it that John re-enlisted in a Massachusetts Calvary unit. However, I plan to document this in a later issue.

After the war, John moved out west, eventually settling in Colorado. As evident from this accompanying photograph, he was quite active in the G.A.R. It was probably taken at the Great Dedication of the New York Monument in Gettysburg, in July, 1893.

John applied for and received a pension for the last eight years of his life, due to injuries incurred in the war. He finally succumbed to the aforementioned injuries on October 23, 1902, at the age of 71. His memory, like all of the other soldiers who valiantly fought and died for the preservation of the Union, will be cherished and venerated for generations to come.

Editor's Note: *We would like "My Civil War Ancestor" to be a regular feature in* ***The Clarion Call****. Members of the Department of Massachusetts are strongly encouraged to submit a story and photograph, (if available) of their Civil War Ancestor to the* ***The Clarion Call*** *for future publication.*

The Last Word

By Department SVC John W. Bates III

Thank You Bill Ryerson!

With the election of Bob Knight as Department Commander at the Department Encampment on April 27th, the term of Commander William T. Ryerson comes to an end. On behalf of the Department, I would like to extend a warm "Thank you for a job well done!" to outgoing Commander Ryerson.

Bill has served the Department in many capacities over the past 25 years, including, (but not limited to) Department Secretary, Department JVC, Department SVC and Department Commander. Under his leadership and guidance, our Department has made great strides in overcoming rancor and discord, and Bill can take great pride in knowing that he played a large part in making the Department of Massachusetts the united and collaborative organization that it is today.

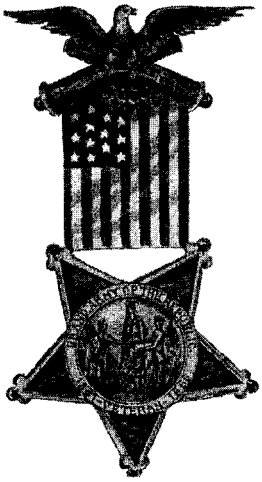
When Bill was sworn in as Department Commander Two years ago, he took on the difficult task of "cleaning house", and making sure that the Department was able to get back on the course and carry out the task for which it was formed, to honor the brave men who fought and died to preserve the Union. With Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty as his principals, Bill has guided the Department back from the brink of ruin, and helped make it possible for all of us to work together to remember those who heard the call and defended the Union at her time of greatest peril.

The good news is that Bill's work is not yet finished. He was elected as Department Secretary at the Department Encampment, and will continue to be very involved in the day to day operations of our Department. We look forward to his continued expertise and guidance as the Department move into the future.

On a personal note, I would like to publicly thank Bill for all he has done for me. He has taught me many things, including focus and determination. He has shown me that a leader sometimes must sacrifice his "blood, sweat and tears" to move the Department through difficult times. I consider Bill a great comrade and a great friend, and I am better for having him as both.

Above all, I look forward to continuing to work with Bill, as well as all my Department of Massachusetts Brothers, to carry on the work that Bill started, in an effort to make the Department the "Best We Can Be".

Thanks Bill, for the memories. And all the great work.



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